

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-6, 13, 14, 16 and 17 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the specification is amended to return the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 3, to its original form. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendment to the specification and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 7-12, 15 and 18-20 were previously withdrawn as drawn to a non-elected species. The features positively recited in claims 7-12, 15 and 18-20, depend from claim 4, either directly or indirectly, and, as such, inherit all of the features of independent claim 4. Therefore, upon allowance of claim 4 rejoinder and allowance of claims 7-12, 15 and 18-20 are respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representatives by Examiner Torres during the January 19, 2010 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the personal interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

The Office Action, on page 2, objects to the specification for allegedly introducing new matter into the disclosure in the March 12, 2009 Amendment. Applicants amend the specification so that the objected to paragraph is returned to its original form to obviate this objection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

The Office Action, on page 2, rejects claims 1, 3-6, 13, 14, 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,822,011 to Goldbach et al. (hereinafter "Goldbach"). The Office Action, on page 3, rejections claims 1, 3-5, 13, 14, 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,830,793 to Hawkins et al. (hereinafter "Hawkins"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites, among other features, a plurality of suspension assemblies are all mounted in series between two elements of the structure with a damping device mounted in

parallel to each suspension assembly of said plurality of suspension assemblies. Claim 4 recites similar features.

Goldbach is directed to a shock absorber, arranged between a bumper and a body that possesses elastically deformable elements that support themselves against sliding surfaces (Abstract). The Office Action asserts that Goldbach, in Figs. 3-5, teaches the combinations of all of the features recited in at least independent claims 1 and 4. This analysis of the Office Action fails for at least the following reason.

Goldbach, in Fig. 3, illustrates a synthetic absorber 11 that has v- or u-shaped elements 12 arranged in a mirror-formation and displaced, that are integrated into a casing 13 with a connecting flange 14. Goldbach further illustrates inclined ribs 15 arranged on both sides of a cross-piece 16 form a wall of a casing 13 and touch at sliding surfaces 17. Inclined ribs 15 and the cross-piece 16 are respectively the branch and the base of the u-shaped element 12.

The Office Action asserts that the inclined ribs 15 and cross-piece 16 correspond to the recited plurality of suspended assemblies are all mounted in series between two elements of the structure with a damping device mounted in parallel to each suspension assembly of said plurality of suspension assemblies.

The Office Action overly broadly construes what Goldbach can reasonably be considered to teach, or to have suggested, with respect to the subject matter recited in the pending claims. As agreed during the personal interview with regard to claim 1, Goldbach does not teach wherein a plurality of suspension assemblies are all mounted in series between two elements of the structure with the damping device mounted in parallel to each suspension assembly of the plurality of suspension assemblies. Similarly in claim 4, Goldbach does not teach wherein at least one dissipative component is attached in parallel to the elastic component. Rather, Goldbach merely teaches a cross-piece 16 that is formed as a wall of the

casing 13. This cross-piece 16 is not a damping device mounted in parallel to each suspension assembly of the plurality of suspension assemblies.

For at least the foregoing reason, Goldbach cannot reasonably be considered to teach the combinations of features recited in independent claims 1 and 4. Further, dependent claims 3-6, 13, 16 and 17 would also not have been anticipated by Goldbach for at least the dependence of these claims on independent claims 1 and 4, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that each of these claims recites.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 3-6, 13, 14, 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Goldbach are respectfully requested.

Hawkins is directed to a composite damping material that includes an array of machine elements disposed within a matrix material (Abstract). The Office Action asserts that Hawkins teaches the combinations of all of the features recited in at least independent claims 1 and 4. This analysis of the Office Action fails for at least the following reason.

Hawkins illustrates, in Figs. 2 and 3, tubular members 14 that include one or more sidewalls 16 and 18 that define an internal space 20. The Office Action asserts that sidewalls 16 and 18 can be considered to correspond to the recited plurality of suspension assemblies that are all mounted in series between two elements of the structure with a damping device mounted in parallel to each suspension assembly of said plurality of suspension assemblies. As agreed during the personal interview with regard to claim 1, Hawkins does not teach wherein a plurality of suspension assemblies are all mounted in series between two elements of the structure with the damping device mounted in parallel to each suspension assembly of the plurality of suspension assemblies. Similarly in claim 4, Hawkins does not teach wherein at least one dissipative component is attached in parallel to the elastic component.

The Office Action overly broadly asserts what Hawkins can reasonably be considered to teach, or to have suggested, with respect to the subject matter of the pending claims. Hawkins

merely teaches a tubular member that is made up of sidewalls 16 and 18. The sidewalls cannot reasonably be considered to correspond to the recited suspension assemblies and damping devices because neither of the sidewalls 16 and 18 are damping devices that are mounted in parallel to the alleged suspension assemblies.

For at least the foregoing reason, Hawkins cannot be reasonably be considered to teach the combinations of all of the features recited in independent claims 1 and 4. Further, dependent claims 3-5, 13, 16 and 17 would also not have been anticipated by Hawkins for at least the dependence of these claims on independent claims 1 and 4, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that each of these claims recites.

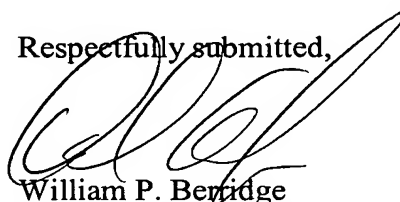
Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 3-5, 13, 14, 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Hawkins are respectfully requested.

Applicants' representatives presented the above arguments to Examiner Torres during the January 19 personal interview. Examiner Torres agreed that arguments made during the personal interview would overcome the rejections made in the September 23, 2009 Office Action. Examiner Torres indicated that further search and consideration would be required upon submission of a formal response.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 3-6, 13, 14, 16 and 17, and rejoinder and allowance of withdrawn claims 7-12, 15 and 18-20 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

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